

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 98-10-19**

Date Prepared: October 15, 1998
For Work Week Commencing: October 19, 1998
Business Meeting: October 19, 1998, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. Letter from Four Northwest PSC's to BPA on subscription – Discuss letter and whether PSC will sign (10/19/98)
2. PSC & MCC Dockets D98.10.247 and D98.10.248 – Pass through of fees levied on regulated companies for funding PSC and MCC – Approve the orders (10/19/98)
3. MPC Docket D98.10.217 – MPC gas tracker – Discuss and act on request for protective order, other matters as necessary (10/19/98)
4. Rule L-98.5.1-RUL – Utility Notice Rule – Discussion, direction, action of draft rule (10/19/98)
5. Update of Pipeline Safety rules – Discussion and action on annual update to pipeline safety rules (10/19/98)

6. Columbia Heights Water Company Docket D98.10.246 – Columbia Heights Water Company complaint – Discussion and action on service quality (10/19/98)
7. USWC Docket D98.4.86 – USWC's IntraLATA dialing parity plan – Discuss matters that may arise (10/19/98)

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. US WEST/MONTANA COMMUNICATIONS – Docket D96.11.198(Karen)

On September 22, 1998, U S WEST and Montana Communications filed their First Amendment to their resale agreement, which was approved on February 10, 1997. This Amendment revises Appendix A, which details resale rates and services available for resale. A draft order has been distributed.

2. US WEST/NORTH AMERICAN TELCOM, INC. – Docket D98.3.61(Karen)

On August 12, 1998, U S WEST Communications, Inc. filed the First Amendment to its resale agreement with North American Telcom, Inc. The First Amendment revises sections of the initial agreement that have been rejected by the Commission. The revised sections address the Commission's concerns. A draft order has been distributed.

3. US WEST/COMM SOUTH CO's, INC. – Docket D98.5.103 (Karen)

On August 26, 1998, U S WEST Communications, Inc. filed the First Amendment to its resale agreement with Comm South Companies, Inc. The First Amendment revises sections in the initial agreement that have been rejected by the Commission in other dockets. The revised sections address the Commission's concerns. A draft order has been distributed.

4. US WEST/STERLING INTERNAT'L FUNDING. – Docket D97.12.246

On July 22, 1998, U S WEST Communications, Inc. filed the Second Amendment to its resale agreement with Sterling International Funding, Inc. The Second Amendment revises sections of the initial agreement that have been rejected by the Commission. The revised sections address the Commission's concerns. A draft order has been distributed.

5. US WEST/STARGATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. – Docket D97.10.209

On July 22, 1998, U S WEST Communications, Inc. filed the First Amendment to its resale agreement with Stargate Communications, Inc. The First Amendment revises sections of the initial agreement that have been rejected by the Commission. The revised sections address the Commission's concerns. A draft order has been distributed.

6. US WEST/BG ENTERPRISES, INC. – Docket D97.12.245(Karen)

On September 18, 1998, U S WEST Communications, Inc. filed the Second Amendment to its resale agreement with BG Enterprises, Inc. The Second Amendment revises sections of the initial agreement that have been rejected by the Commission. The revised sections address the Commission's concerns. A draft order has been distributed.

7. U S WEST/UNITED PROPERTIES, INC. – Docket D97.12.247(Karen)

On September 11, 1998, U S WEST Communications, Inc. filed the Second Amendment to its resale agreement with United Properties, Inc. The Second Amendment revises sections of the initial agreement that have been rejected by the Commission. The revised sections address the Commission's concerns. A draft order has been distributed.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N98.10.240 (Tina)

On October 8, 1998, USWC filed Tariff Transmittal 98-43. This is a clean up filing to correct release numbers.

2. US WEST- Docket N98.10.239 (Bonnie)

On October 8, 1998, US WEST filed revised tariff transmittal 98-44 to reduce the price for the Custom Choice feature package, both the standard price and the competitive zone pricing by \$.42 to align the tariff price with the advertised feature prices. On October 14, 1998, the PSC approved the rates on an interim basis.

3. US WEST- Docket N98.10.244 (Bonnie)

On October 8, 1998, US WEST filed revised tariff transmittal 98-45 to add two exchanges to the Competitive Zone Pricing portion of Section 5 (flexible pricing areas). USWC seeks to add the Sidney and Fairview exchanges. USWC states that Mid-Rivers is offering and providing local exchange service to customers in those exchanges.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 98-10-26

US West Communications – Docket N98.10.240 (Tina)
US West Communications – Docket N98.10.239 (Bonnie)
US West Communications – Docket N98.10.244 (Bonnie)

New Filings Received in Past Week

N98.10.238 – Glacier Energy Inc. – Application for electricity suppliers license
N98.10.239 – USWC – Tariff filing 98-44 Custom Choice Price Reduction
N98.10.240 – USWC – Tariff filing 98-43 Clean-up for release numbers
N98.10.241 – USWC – Tariff filing 98-45 Competitive zone – Sidney & Fairview
D98.10.242 – Montana-Dakota Utilities – Gas tracker adjustment change
D98.10.243 – PSC – Investigation of USWC compliance of tariff (custom choice)
N98.10.244 – UniDial/Metracom – acquisition
N98.10.245 – Bell Atlantic/GTE – merger
D98.10.246 – Columbia Heights Water Co – complaint by water customers
D98.10.247 – PSC – Funding Tax
S98.10.248 – MCC – Funding Tax